

Appendix 4: Non-Technical Summary

Edgeworthy Poultry Farm is operated by Cole Agri-Trading Ltd based at neighbouring Menchine Farm, Nomansland, Tiverton, EX18 8NP and once building is completed will have a capacity for 60,000 free range broiler places across five poultry houses. In the event that demand for free range birds reduced, the sheds could be stocked at a higher stocking rate for standard broiler production which could increase the numbers up to 105,000 places.

Birds will be brought in from a hatchery and then transported to a processing plant at the end of the growing period. The crop cycle length for free range will be 56 days (40 days for standard) plus around 7-10 days where the sheds are cleaned out and prepared for the next crop.

The houses are steel framed with concrete dwarf walls set into a concrete internal floor and one metre wide external path around the perimeter of each shed. The upper walls are lined internally with painted steel sheets with the external wooden shiplap finish of the entire wall. The cavity of the wall is filled with rockwool insulation material. The walls have windows made from insulated polycarbonate equally spaced along each side of the sheds. The houses will be built to the Best Available Techniques as detailed in How to Comply (EPR 6.09 Sector Guidance Note).

All houses are naturally ventilated using side vents that extend to the full length of each side of the building. The vents are independently and automatically controlled by in house thermostats. Each house also has large gable end fans that can be used if required.

Prior to the arrival of the day-old chicks, the concrete floors in each house are covered with chopped straw or wood shavings to a depth of 20mm and the houses are pre-warmed to 31°C. Under floor heating using piped hot water from the neighbouring biogas plant is used to heat the houses. As the birds grow, the ventilation rate increases and the house temperature is gradually reduced until the heating can be switched off.

Feed is supplied from a separately-owned feed mill and it is stored on site in fully-enclosed fibreglass silos. Diets are formulated according to the birds' requirements and the stage of growth. Protein and phosphorus levels are reduced over the growing period. Water is provided via nipple drinkers with cups which are designed to minimise spillage. This, together with good environmental control in the houses helps to maintain good litter condition and hence reduce ammonia and odours. Water use in each house is monitored daily by meters. Low energy LED lighting systems are used throughout the site.

Bird mortalities are removed each day and the numbers are recorded. The carcasses are held in a locked freezer prior to collection to the fallen stock scheme.

At the end of the growing period, all birds are removed from the houses and the used litter is immediately taken away from the site in covered vehicles to the neighbouring biogas plant. The litter is then used as a feedstock to produce renewable energy.

Wash down and disinfection takes place ready for the next crop. The wash water is collected in underground tanks and the contents are spread on arable farmland in accordance with the NVZ regulations. These measures are intended to reduce the production and emission of ammonia, dust and odours and to prevent liquid washings escaping to the environment.